

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emergency Assistance Program (EA)

Fiscal Year 2014, Third Quarterly Report

Department of Housing and Community Development

April 24, 2014



Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2014

During Quarter 3, 2,787 families applied for EA, a 10 percent decrease from the previous quarter, and a 11 percent increase compared to the third quarter of FY13. Consistent with demand for EA as reflected in the number of families applying, 1,341 families were placed in EA shelters or hotels/motels during Quarter 3, 9 percent fewer than the previous quarter but 41% more than Quarter 3 of FY13. In addition, 93 EA eligible families were diverted from shelter with HomeBASE Household Assistance, a flexible benefit of up to \$4,000 annually to help them retain their current housing or support them in seeking alternative housing.

The Boston regional office continued to serve as the entry point for the greatest number of families placed in shelter or hotels/motels, 389 families in Quarter 3, accounting for 29 percent of all placements, followed by the Brockton office at 13 percent and the Springfield office at 11 percent.

Half of families entering EA shelter and hotels/motels (50%) were eligible due to a health and safety risk, while eviction was the reason for homelessness for 17 percent of families and domestic violence for another 13 percent. Of those families experiencing a health and safety risk, 64% qualified for EA because they were in irregular housing situations. 16 percent were living in situations unfit for human habitation, and another 12 percent were experiencing health and safety problems related to their hosts' behavior (violent conduct, substance abuse, or mental illness).

During Quarter 3, HomeBASE Rental Assistance (HBRA) expired for approximately 887 families (16% of families whose HBRA benefits expire during FY14). 63 families, 7% of the families whose HBRA benefit expired during Quarter 3, received a shelter or hotel/motel placement and entered the system. Families ending HBRA at the end of the quarter may have applied for and entered EA in subsequent months. At time of reporting, only 11 percent of families whose HBRA benefit expired during FY14 had entered an EA shelter or hotel/motel.

To accommodate demand for EA beyond DHCD's contracted shelter units, the Department continued to rely on hotels/motels. During Quarter 3, there was a daily average caseload of 2,016 families in hotels/motels compared to 2,048 in Quarter 2, a 2 percent increase. The third quarter began with 2,109 families in hotels/motels and decreased nine percent to 1,911 families by the end quarter. Due to the continuing demand for EA, DHCD continued contracting for additional shelter units. During Quarter 3, DHCD added 198 new shelter units. Year-to-date (FY14, July through March), 629 new shelter units were added, expanding shelter capacity beyond the 2,023 contracted shelter units at the start of the fiscal year.

During Quarter 3, 1,528 families exited the EA system. 505 (33%) of these families left with an MRVP voucher. 533 families (35% of Quarter 3 exits) left the EA shelter or hotel/motels with HomeBASE Household Assistance.¹

¹ The numbers receiving MRVPs and HomeBASE Household Assistance are not mutually exclusive. Families receiving an MRVP may also exit with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2014

EA Applications and Entries

All Applications	SFY 2014 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2014			SFY 2014 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
Families Applying to EA	2,787	3,109	1,085	758	990	9,012
Families Entering Shelter and Hotel/Motels or Diverted with HomeBASE Household Assistance	1,434	1,572	508	416	509	4,884
Families Entering Shelter & Hotels/Motels	1,341	1,472	474	386	481	4,588
% Entering Shelter or Hotels/Motels	94%	94%	93%	93%	94%	94%
Families Diverted with HomeBASE HA	93	100	35	30	28	297
% Entering HomeBASE	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%

Note: Families applying for EA are an unduplicated count. Since families may apply multiple times, the sum of monthly data do not equal the quarterly total.

Sources: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data and Tracker.

EA Health & Safety Assessments

	SFY 2014 Quarter 3	Previous Quarter	SFY 2014			SFY 2014 YTD
			Jan	Feb	Mar	
H&S Assessments Conducted by DCF	674	548	243	183	248	2,012
Families Determined at Risk	597	456	214	164	219	1,709
% Referrals at Risk	89%	83%	88%	90%	88%	85%
Shelter Diversions	77	92	29	19	29	303
% Referrals Diverted	11%	17%	12%	10%	12%	15%

Source: DCF Monthly Homeless H&S Assessment Reports.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2014**

EA Shelter Entries by Region

Regional Office	SFY 2014 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2014			SFY 2014 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
All Offices	1,341	100%	1,472	474	386	481	4,588	100%
Boston	389	29%	458	153	104	132	1,272	28%
Brockton	179	13%	146	62	56	61	562	12%
Fall River	32	2%	33	10	15	7	92	2%
Fitchburg	7	1%	8	1	2	4	19	<1%
Framingham	23	2%	12	6	7	10	55	1%
Greenfield	8	1%	14	0	3	5	44	1%
Holyoke	76	6%	87	28	23	25	253	6%
Hyannis	11	1%	16	5	2	4	45	1%
Lawrence	63	5%	52	19	19	25	229	5%
Lowell	64	5%	60	27	18	19	224	5%
Malden	92	7%	73	25	25	42	279	6%
New Bedford	28	2%	29	7	4	17	79	2%
North Shore (Salem)	69	5%	94	20	24	25	258	6%
Pittsfield/North Adams	3	<1%	4	0	0	3	10	<1%
Plymouth	7	1%	12	1	0	6	35	1%
Revere/Chelsea	54	4%	75	17	18	19	248	5%
Southbridge	3	<1%	4	1	0	2	15	<1%
Springfield	147	11%	202	62	34	51	614	13%
Taunton	19	1%	41	3	7	9	100	2%
Worcester	67	5%	52	27	25	15	155	3%

Source: DHCD Placement Unit Daily Entry Data.

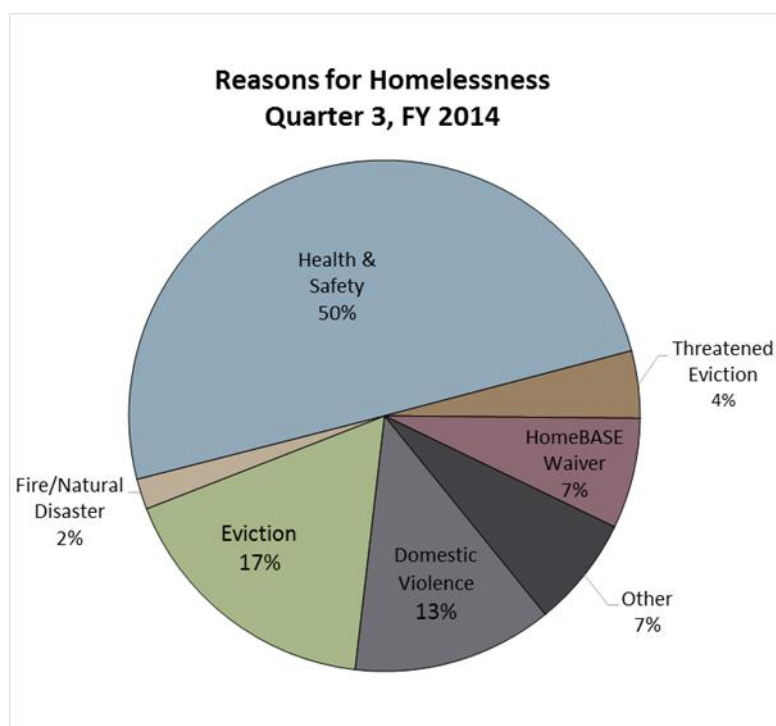
Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2014

**Reason for Homelessness,
Families Entering Shelter/Motels**

Reason for Homelessness	SFY 2014 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2014			SFY 2014 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
Total	1,341	100%	1,472	474	386	481	4,588	100%
Domestic Violence	170	13%	163	73	39	58	543	12%
Eviction	231	17%	196	79	72	80	660	14%
Fire/Natural Disaster	26	2%	7	7	10	9	51	1%
Health & Safety	669	50%	800	228	192	249	2,390	52%
Threatened Eviction	57	4%	59	19	12	26	201	4%
HomeBASE Waiver	94	7%	169	34	30	30	504	11%
Other	94	7%	78	34	31	29	239	5%

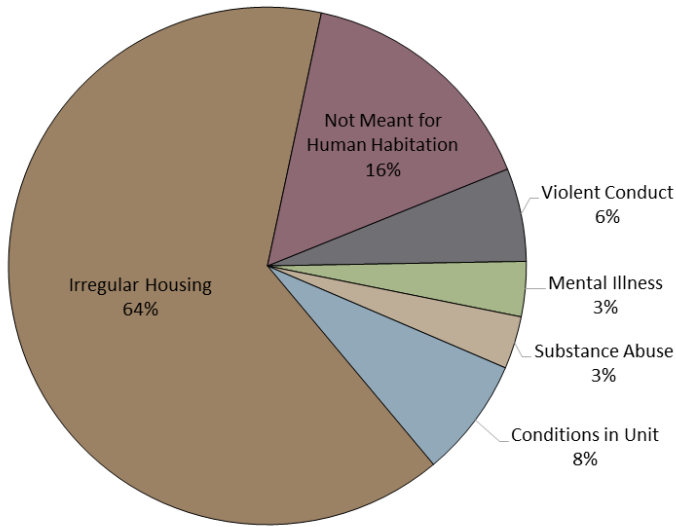
Note: Data includes families placed in an EA shelters or hotels/motels who declined their placements.

Source: DHCD Placement Unit data.



**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2014**

**Health & Safety Reasons
Quarter 3, FY2014**



Shelter Exits

	SFY 2014 Quarter 3		Previous Quarter	SFY 2014			SFY 2014 YTD	
	# Families	% of Total		Jan	Feb	Mar	# Families	% of Total
Total Shelter & Hotel/Motel Exits	1,528	100%	1,368	481	480	567	4,002	100%
Exiting with HomeBASE HA	533	35%	330	201	205	127	1,443	36%
Exiting with MRVPs	505	33%	147	159	196	150	652	16%

Note: Some families exiting with an MRVP also exited with HomeBASE Household Assistance.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
EA Legislative Report
Quarter 3, SFY 2014**

EA Shelter and Hotel/Motel Caseload

Daily Utilization by Shelter Type	Quarter 3, SFY 2014	
	# of Families	% of Total Daily Caseload
Shelter (Congregate and Scattered)	2,417	53%
Motel	2,016	47%
All Families	4,433	100%
Caseload Difference from Previous Quarter	466	
% Change from Previous Quarter	11.7%	

Note: Number of families indicates the average daily number during the quarter.

**Length of Stay and Cost of Families Exiting EA
During Quarter 3**

	Min.	Max.	Average
Days in EA Shelter or Hotels/Motels	0	1,489	273
Cost Per Episode	\$108	\$160,812	\$29,484

Notes:

Cost per episode assumes an average daily rate of \$108 (the weighted average of the shelter and hotel/motel rates).

The average daily rate includes additional costs incurred through housing stabilization and services coordination provided to families in EA. It is possible to have a length of stay of zero days with associated costs if a family is approved for EA and placed in a shelter or hotel/motel but abandons their placement.

HomeBASE Caseload

Type of Assistance	Number of Families
Rental Assistance	1,146
Household Assistance	5,100

Note: Data indicate families active in the HomeBASE program on March 31, 2013.